GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5359
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
URNS OF LORD BUDDHA
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country from where the urns of Lord Buddha have been discovered during excavation;

(b) whether a task force was constituted in 1984 to make recommendations for proper maintenance of the urns;

(c) if so, the details of those recommendations;

(d) whether the said task force recommended to keep the said urns in the museum;

(e) if so, whether the State Governments had been asked to provide land and prepare projects before sending the same to the Union Government; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULUTRE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) The Buddhist relic caskets have been found during excavation in the country at various places namely, Vaishali (Bihar); Amaravati, Battiprolu, Jaggayyapet, Kapavaram and Nagarjunakonda (all fivein Andhra Pradesh); Ambaran (Jammu and Kashmir); Piprahwa (U ttar Pradesh); Lalitgiri (Orissa); Sanchi, Sonari, Murelkhurd, Andher and Satdhara (all five in Madhya Pradesh);Sanghol (Punjab); Kanheri and Sopara (both in Maharashtra); and Devnimori (Gujarat).

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) A Task Force appointed in 1984 by the Union Ministry of Tourism recommended, among other things, to identify sites at Piprahwa, Vaishali and Amaravati for constructing stupas to house the relics of the Buddha. The relic casket found at Amaravati is displayed in the site museum of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) there. Regarding Vaishali, the ASI did not support the proposal of constructing a stupa at the site as it was against the established archaeological norms. Besides it has a site museum there. For housing the excavated material from Ganwaria and Piprahwa (ancient Kapilvastu), the State Government of U.P. has already constructed a museum building at Piprahwa (Distt. Siddharathnagar), U.P.